

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06011 021551Z

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 FDRE-00 SCI-06 PC-10

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SWF-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /182 W  
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R 021455Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4586

USUN NEW YORK 2024

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS ROME 6011

AFDROUGHT

SUBJECT: SAHEL FOOD SUPPLY SHIPPING DATA

1. LATEST REPORT DATA AS OF APRIL 20 (FORWARDED APRIL 29 AFR/CWR, SHEEHAN AND JAMES). IN WBIPRIL ARRIVALS SINCE LAST PREVIOUS REPORT, BOOKINGS AND PROJECTIONS APRIL MAY JUNE AND PROJECTIONS JULY, REPORT HAS FOLLOWING NOTES ON MALI SUPPLY AND MOVEMENTS TO NIGER. ALSO FORWARDED 22 APRIL DATA ON CAMPS IN NIGER (TOTAL PEOPLE IN CAMPS ESTIMATED 267,200) AND ON TRUCKS AND CONVOYS.

2. NOTES: A. MALI STOCKS IN DAKAR EXCEED 40,000 MT WHICH REPRESENTS FOUR MONTHS SUPPLIES IF THE MOST RECENT EVACUATION RATE OF LAST SIX WEEKS IS TAKEN. THE EVACUATION RATE MUST BE INCREASED EVEN BEYOND THE FIFTEEN THOUSAND TON MONTHLY CAPACITY. EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES SUCH AS SPECIAL TRAINS ARE REQUIRED AND DONORS ARE REQUESTED TO CAUSE THE MATTER TO BE TAKEN UP IN DAKAR AND BAMAKO.

2. OSRO GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY DONOR RESPONSE TO CALL TO USE  
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PAGE 02 ROME 06011 021551Z

ROAD TRANSPORT OUT OF APAPA BECAUSE OF RAIL PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

WHICH THREATENED BREAKDOWN OF SERVICE. ALL DONORS IMMEDIATELY AGREED TO ENGAGE TRUCKS AND THUS EXPEDITE FOOD FLOW NORTHWARD. THE RAIL SITUATION IS NOW REPORTED TO BE RETURNING TO NORMAL WITH THE CANADIAN MECHANICS NOW IN NIGERIA REPAIRING THE SIXTEEN LOCOMOTIVES WHICH HAD BROKEN DOWN. REPAIRS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN ONE WEEKS TIME. HOWEVER, DONORS SHOULD STILL RETAIN THE OPTION TO USE LORRIES WHEN RAIL IS FILLED TO CAPACITY BOTH FOR DONORS OWN ECONOMY VIZ NO ADDITIONAL STORAGE COSTS AND BECAUSE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUANTITIES OF FOODS MUST REACH NIGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CURRENT NEEDS MUST BE MET AND PRERAIN STOCKING BY ROAD IS POSSIBLE FOR ONLY A LIMITED PERIOD. SIMILARLY EVACUATION FROM COTONOU MUST BE AUGMENTED AND OSRO SUPPORTS ANY MEASURES GOVERNMENTS OF NIGER AND DAHOMEY CAN IMPLEMENT TO ACHIEVE FASTER RATES.VOLPE

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